

VZCZCXRO9664
PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHLB #1499 2941526
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 201526Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3319
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3058
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 3269
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 001499

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ELA
ALSO FOR PM/FO AND PM/WRA-DAVID DIAZ, STEPHANIE PICO
ALSO FOR IO ACTING A/S HOOK, PDAS WARLICK
P FOR DRUSSELL AND RRANGASWAMY
USUN FOR KHALILZAD/WOLFF/SCHEDLBAUER
NSC FOR ABRAMS/RAMCHAND/YERGER/MCDERMOTT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/10/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UNSC](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [IS](#) [SY](#) [LE](#)
SUBJECT: LEBANON: ARMY DESTROYS ITS FIRST MANPAD

REF: A: IIR 6851023408

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On October 16, Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) demolition experts destroyed their first MANPAD (Man-Portable Air Defense System), a Russian made SA-7 (serial# 9()54M-04-73-04774, 9M32M-04774). This demolition reflects an agreement with the Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) to destroy part of the LAF's existing MANPAD stock in exchange for Department of State funding for physical security and stockpile management assistance for at-risk arms and munitions in LAF depots. The demolition was coordinated with U.S. Government contractor DynCorp and the Embassy Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC); ODC Chief and PolMilOff attended the demolition. Although they hoped the LAF would destroy more than one MANPAD at the site, DynCorp officials agreed it was a positive step forward for the LAF.

¶2. (C) RWA allocated nearly \$1 million in fiscal year 2008 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Program (NADR) funds for Lebanon for conventional weapon destruction and security of stockpiles. DynCorp is using the money to fund a conventional weapons destruction team in Lebanon to assist with MANPADS destruction and depot upgrades.

¶3. (C) The LAF has more MANPADS in depots. Over the past year, LAF, DynCorp, ODC, and WRA inspectors determined that many lacked adequate security and modern storage facilities. According to DynCorp's program manager for conventional weapons destruction in Lebanon, the first upgrade is the construction of a \$400,000 security fence around the Loueize depot. One of the larger depots, Loueize, situated near civilian residential areas, is an easy target for theft or destruction. The perimeter fence will provide security around its storage facilities housing ammunition, conventional weapons, and additional MANPADS.

SISON